GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:617
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
FLIGHT TESTING OF LCA
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flight test programme of the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas has been inordinately delayed due to non-availability of strategic partner to share their technological expertise with the Aeronautical Development Agency or lack of coordination among the Defence Research Development Organization,Hindustan Aeronautical Limited and Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to complete the project at the earliest; and

(d) total amount spent by the Government on development of Light Combat Aircraft?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Flight test programme of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA),Tejas is progressingas per the schedule. So far, 829 flight tests have been completed. Efforts are being made toaccelerate the flight tests. Regular review meetings are being conducted involving DefenceResearch and Development Organisation (DRDO), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian AirForce (IAF) and other concerned agencies to take collective decisions and coordination.Presently,no need is felt for strategic partner.

(c) To complete the project at the earliest, a top level review is being conducted by the Chiefof Air Staff (CAS) once in every quarter and review by the Deputy Chief of Air Staff (DCAS) oncein every month.

(d) So far, Rs.4806.312 cr have been spent on development of various versions of Light CombatAircraft.